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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Military Information from Cottbus

EVALUATION See below

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1. On 27 December 1950, crews of five or six men were drilling with two artillery pieces of about 75 mm caliber on Alter Viehmarkt (square) directly west of the Alvensleben-Kaserne, Cottbus (N 52/A 57). A gun of about 100 mm caliber was towed to the square by about 20 soldiers, *
2. On 2 January 1951, it was learned that the Hermann Loens-Kaserne housed the headquarters of the division which was stationed in the Cottbus area. The occupation of the installation and the number of loaves of bread delivered to the installation indicated that the number of troops there was 700.
3. [redacted] the total troops stationed in Cottbus is about 20,000. **

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* [redacted] Comment. The 692nd How Arty Regt of the 9th Mecz Div is believed to be stationed in the Alvensleben-Kaserne. According to the calibers specified, the guns seen on Alter Viehmarkt west of the Alvensleben-Kaserne did not belong to the 692nd How Arty Regt, which is equipped with 122-mm howitzers. [redacted]

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** [redacted] Comment. The Hermann Loens-Kaserne houses the Hq 9th Mecz Div. The information can therefore be considered as confirmation of the division headquarters in Cottbus until 2 January 1951. [redacted] previously estimated the number of troops in the installation at 500 to 800. [redacted]

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The estimate of 20,000 troops in Cottbus is too high. Since a mechanized division has a peacetime strength of about 10,000 men, and since one regiment of the 9th Div is definitely known to be stationed in Luebben and another one in Spremberg, the troops in Cottbus, including about 1,500 air force troops, are not believed to number more than 10,000 to 11,000. 25X1

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